

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5547

As of February 9, 2009

Title: An act relating to respite care for primary care providers of persons with developmental disabilities.

Brief Description: Concerning respite care.

Sponsors: Senators Hargrove, Pflug, McAuliffe, Oemig, Marr, Fairley, Kauffman, Franklin, Parlette, Carrell, Haugen, Kilmer, Jarrett, Pridemore, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Murray, Regala and Keiser.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Health & Long-Term Care: 2/05/09.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & LONG-TERM CARE

Staff: Rhoda Donkin (786-7465)

Background: The state's Division of Developmental Disabilities provides funding to certain eligible families for support services, enabling them to remain long-term caregivers for developmentally disabled family members. These services include respite care, therapies, adaptive equipment, counseling, and training. In January 2007 the Department of Social and Health Services released a report on family support recommending consolidation of services, a new assessment tool, and a different prioritizing system. Legislation enacted in 2008 created the Individual and Family Service Program which implements some of these recommendations.

Summary of Bill: Clarification is made that respite services provided under the Individual and Family Service Program is available to any family member who resides with and is the primary care provider to the person with developmental disabilities.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

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